

Appl. No.: 10/823,217  
Reply to Final Office Action of: September 13, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the present application:

**Claims Listing**

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) The connector arrangement according to Claim [1] 17, wherein the actuation lever is pivotal relative to the first connector.
3. (currently amended) The connector arrangement according to Claim [1] 17, wherein the clamping projection protrudes towards the housing.
4. (original) The connector arrangement according to Claim 3, wherein the mating clamping projection is formed on the housing and protrudes toward the lever.
5. (currently amended) The connector arrangement according to Claim [1] 17, wherein the clamping projection on the lever is resilient in the direction of the housing and is deflected toward the housing by movement of the actuation lever from the free position into the coupled position.
6. (original) The connector arrangement according to Claim 5, wherein the resilient clamping projection is formed by a resilient portion of the actuation lever.
7. (original) The connector arrangement according to Claim 5, wherein the clamping projection on the lever is formed on a resilient portion of the actuation lever.
8. (original) The connector arrangement according to Claim 7, wherein the resilient portion of the actuation lever is formed by a spring tab cut to protrude out of the lever.
9. (original) The connector arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the spring tab includes a clamping projection pointing towards the housing.

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10. (original) The connector arrangement according to Claim 5, wherein the first connector includes a ramp projection that urges the resilient lever region toward the mating clamping projection during the movement of the actuation lever from the free position into the coupled position, such that the clamping projection engages the mating clamping projection.

11. (currently amended) The connector arrangement according to Claim [±] 17, wherein the first connector is a socket connector.

12. (currently amended) The connector arrangement according to Claim [±] 17, wherein the first connector is a plug connector.

13. (currently amended) The connector arrangement according to Claim [±] 17, wherein the actuation lever has on each side of the first connector a respective lever part having a respective clamping projection, and the housing has at corresponding locations on two mutually opposing inner wall regions a respective mating clamping projection.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) An electrical connector arrangement, comprising:

a first connector arranged in a housing; and

an actuation lever arranged on the first connector, the actuation lever having at least one tooth located at a free end, configured to engage a mating connector, and movable between a free position in which the first connector and the mating connector are unmated and a coupled position in which the two connectors are fully mated;

a portion of the actuation lever being disposed between the first connector and the housing, and having thereon a clamping projection which, in the coupled position, is in

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engagement with a mating clamping projection on the housing;

wherein the first connector has a mating clamping projection on each of two diametrically opposing sides thereof, the actuation lever is constructed as a two-armed lever having a respective lever arm on each of the two diametrically opposing sides of the first connector, and the lever arms each having a clamping projection positioned to engage the respective mating clamping projection;

wherein the clamping projections of each lever arm comprise a deflectable spring tab cut to protrude from the lever arm with a clamping projection on the spring tab;

wherein the actuation lever is constructed to be approximately U-shaped and has two limbs of this U-shape which each form one of the two lever arms, each of the limbs connected to a handle portion and terminating in a free end; and

The connector arrangement according to Claim 16, wherein each of the two limbs of the U-shaped actuation lever has an opening at the free end for receiving a pivot peg arranged on the first connector.

18. (currently amended) An electrical connector arrangement, comprising:

a first connector arranged in a housing; and

an actuation lever arranged on the first connector, the actuation lever having at least one tooth located at a free end, configured to engage a mating connector, and movable between a free position in which the first connector and the mating connector are unmated and a coupled position in which the two connectors are fully mated;

a portion of the actuation lever being disposed between the first connector and the housing, and having thereon a clamping projection which, in the coupled position, is in engagement with a mating clamping projection on the housing;

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wherein the first connector has a mating clamping projection on each of two diametrically opposing sides thereof, the actuation lever is constructed as a two-armed lever having a respective lever arm on each of the two diametrically opposing sides of the first connector, and the lever arms each having a clamping projection positioned to engage the respective mating clamping projection;

wherein the clamping projections of each lever arm comprise a deflectable spring tab cut to protrude from the lever arm with a clamping projection on the spring tab;

wherein the actuation lever is constructed to be approximately U-shaped and has two limbs of this U-shape which each form one of the two lever arms, each of the limbs connected to a handle portion and terminating in a free end; and

~~The connector arrangement according to Claim 16,~~ wherein each of the two limbs of the U-shaped actuation lever has the at least one tooth located at its free end constructed to mesh with at least one correspondingly positioned mating tooth on the mating connector to bring about a relative movement between the first connector and the mating connector.

19. (currently amended) An actuation lever constructed to be mounted on a connector arranged in a housing, the actuation lever being movable between a free position and a coupled position to move the connector into and out of an electrical connection with a mating connector, the actuation lever having a clamping projection disposed between the connector and the housing and a latching tip extending opposite the clamping projection, the clamping projection being configured to engage a mating clamping projection on the housing opposite the clamping projection when the actuation lever is in the coupled position, the actuation lever having at least one tooth located at its free end constructed to mesh with at least one correspondingly positioned mating tooth on the mating connector to bring about a relative

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movement between the first connector and the mating connector.

20. (original) The actuation lever according to Claim 19, wherein the clamping projection on the lever is formed by a portion of the lever region which protrudes towards the surrounding housing when the actuation lever is arranged on the connector.

21. (original) The actuation lever according to Claim 20, wherein the clamping projection on the lever is formed on a lever portion which is resilient in the direction of the housing when the actuation lever is arranged on the connector.

22. (original) The actuation lever according to Claim 21, wherein the resilient lever portion is formed by a spring tab cut to protrude out of the lever.

23. (original) The actuation lever according to Claim 22, further comprising a clamping projection extending toward the housing provided on the spring tab.

24. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 18, wherein the actuation lever is pivotal relative to the first connector.

25. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 18, wherein the clamping projection protrudes towards the housing.

26. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 25, wherein the mating clamping projection is formed on the housing and protrudes toward the lever.

27. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 18, wherein the clamping projection on the lever is resilient in the direction of the housing and is deflected toward the housing by movement of the actuation lever from the free position into the coupled position.

28. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 27, wherein the resilient clamping projection is formed by a resilient portion of the actuation lever.

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29. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 27, wherein the clamping projection on the lever is formed on a resilient portion of the actuation lever.

30. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 29, wherein the resilient portion of the actuation lever is formed by a spring tab cut to protrude out of the lever.

31. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 30, wherein the spring tab includes a clamping projection pointing towards the housing.

32. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 27, wherein the first connector includes a ramp projection that urges the resilient lever region toward the mating clamping projection during the movement of the actuation lever from the free position into the coupled position, such that the clamping projection engages the mating clamping projection.

33. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 18, wherein the first connector is a socket connector.

34. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 18, wherein the first connector is a plug connector.

35. (newly presented) The connector arrangement according to Claim 18, wherein the actuation lever has on each side of the first connector a respective lever part having a respective clamping projection, and the housing has at corresponding locations on two mutually opposing inner wall regions a respective mating clamping projection.